

APRIL 1953

1 Apr 53

The roads in the area have remained condition green, a blessing indeed. Training is taking on a new vigour. The Bn feels somehow that we will move soon. Bde has authorized officer recces of "Jamestown". Col Wood was SOS to X 3 due to an illness requiring a long period of recuperation; Maj MacNeill assumes temporary command.

2 Apr 53

Training is grinding to a halt. Small recce parties are now out continuously. Ammunition requirements are being filled. First line and increment A are now branded as untouchable. No time of movement or destination has been given to the troops and for the first time the secret hasn't been guessed.

3 Apr 53

All company commanders have now done their recces. Six new subalterns arrived and have been allotted, 2/Lts Watt and Vokes to A, Geddes and White to B, Kitson to C, Fowlie and Dorsey and Villiers to D. Capt K C Crook has now taken over D Coy leaving Lt Barnett as I/C mortar platoon.

5 Apr 53

All surplus equipment is being turned in to QM. 22 men are being prepared for R&R. The biggest loss on the turn in of stores being fifty percent of stoves and all winter clothing. It is going to be cold in the hills with no parkas.

6 Apr 53

All tents that have been emptied were taken down today. Carrier and mortar platoons moved up and took over "Jamestown" positions. All the rifle Coy Pl commanders have seen their positions. The rifle coys spent the day preparing to move. Ammunition distribution, loading and fitting of equipment were the main jobs. Pl signallers brought out of hiding and tested the platoon setups.

3 PPCLI

APRIL 1953

7 Apr 53

To day the rifle companies struck camp. Tents came down, mortars bed rolls and other necessities were loaded on vehicles and at intervals starting at 1600 hrs the coys moved forward. Trouble from native raiding parties was expected by the few remaining troops but not materialized. The change over was one that could only happen in this country. Troops of the English speaking 25 Cdn Inf Bde a part of the 1 Commonwealth division relieved Thailand troops of the 2nd US Infantry Division. The Thai troops were not happy to be relieved but expressed a desire to stay in the hills with the relieving troops. By dawn however, all of our people were in position and had in some cases compelled the Thai to move out.

8 Apr 53

A & B Echelons started moving to day. Chinese kept up a light harrassing fire on the coys through out the day. There were two casualties both walking wounded. The hardest working people in the battalion are the sigs linemen who are trying to get communications with rear echelons. As fast as they hook up line somebody from "Nathan Hale Charlie" changes the terminals. The problem was solved by laying a new line.

9 Apr 53

The front is quiet to day. There is still light harrassing mortar fire and a few snipers. The snipers are still at long range and doing no damage. We are sending out small standing patrols and have started a program of extensive recce patrols. A & B Echelons completed their moves.

10 Apr 53

Coys are now tidying up positions. General opinion of Thai-lander is "not too neat". They left a good deal of garbage. Recce patrols made no contacts but made several sightings.

11Apr53

2/Lt Pilcher returned from Pioneer course in Japan and took over duties as Pioneer Officer. Recce and standing patrols made several sightings but no contacts. Light harrassing fire continues. Recce parties are also checking mine fields in the area. There is a bush fire threatening F Ech. It cost 1 tent before the fire stopped. C Coy CP had a fire, luckily it was held down and continued to sleeping quarters. Propaganda broadcasts are going again. The Chinese request that Canadians lay down their arms and go home. 4

12Apr53

KATCOMS moved up to coys in daylight. Ambush patrols out in addition to standing and recce patrols. Some patrols have been having trouble with trip flares left in the area with no record being passed on to this unit. Bde NCO school held graduation ceremony today. A Patricia took first place. 4

13Apr53

All coy commanders spent the afternoon recceing Wyoming positions. A camouflage screen was erected during the night on the road to B Coy. C Company once again heard propaganda music. 4

14Apr 53

One NCO badly burned in a bunker fire and sent to 121 Evacuation hospital. Shower parade personnel are drawing fire, New method of movement being followed. D Coy did a practice counter attack to ward A Coy position. Recce patrols made more than the usual number of sightings. In most cases patrol withdrew and brought down artillery fire. Drums heard the propagand broad cast. One man wounded slightly by mortar fire. 4

15Apr53

The weather has been good for the past two weeks. Sunny and warm today plus a sharp breeze. At night clear with some moonlight. Lt Dufton arrived from the "Van Doos" on transfer and posted to A Coy. Five sheds containing leaflets arrived in B Coy area. The wind dispersed the leaflets however a few were recovered. Most Chinese leaflets seem to be the same. They all suggest that we quit working for the capitalists American Pigs " and go home. It is a pity that the people who fire this sort of stuff can't take a trip to North America on an educational tour. RCE Work party completed work to camouflage "the dash" to B Coy. One KATCOM injured by a small explosion in a bunker. Popular hit tunes were used on the propagand broadcast to B Coy. A very welcome change. 4



16Apr53

Capt Marchessault promoted to T/Major and posted to command A Coy. Capt Meisner to be Adjutant effective today. The Bde Commander visited D Coy. One man killed in B Coy by enemy mortar bomb. Usual recce patrols were out, more sightings were made. There appears to be very extensive digging going on across the way. Light harrassing fire continues.

17Apr53

There is a mud structure in A Echelon now in operation as a theatre. "Joe" the showerman now has the unit showers in the last stages of completion. The showers this time have a permanent cement base. Troops will come back to the showers at B Ech in the morning and be ~~allowed~~ allowed dry canteen privileges. In the afternoon they will see a show at A Ech and return to Coy positions in the evening. The canteen truck is also operating right up to the forward coys by night. Bde commander visited C Coy. B Coy once again received leaflets via mortar bomb. D Coy serenaded by chinese playing Home Sweet Home.

18Apr53

Light harrassing fire from SP mortars and snipers still continue. Recce patrols again made sightings but no contacts. Ambush partol reported nothing. The Pioneer Officer is very actively engaged firming up locations and conditions of all mine fields in the area.

19Apr53

Major General Macklin visited Main. Several enemy gun and mortar positions were spotted while the Chinese were egaged in a farewell hate ffeet for the R22Rs. Our own Bn front was fairly quiet. Mortars heard a broadcast advising that POWs live in the lap of luxury or the lap of a beautiful wonem. This information is taken with a grain of salt.

20Apr53

~~XXXX~~ The standard recce patrols were out and returned with no contacts made. They did hear sounds of ~~XXXX~~ people digging on Eden and they picked up some propaganda leaflets. The weather was slightly changed and visibility was reduced. The final day for the Wayne and Schuster show was very enjoyable. The Bn sent two hunderd people.

21Apr53

The Chinese propaganda machine churned out some more information. They now tell us that there will be Peace the middle of next month. Recce patrols report digging on Eden. One recce patrol was followed for a short distance by a superior force. ~~A~~ty cleared the difficulty.

3 PPCLI

APRIL 1953

28 Apr 53

The paymaster spent the night with the forward coys. There was one battle accident and 3 wounded. D Coy provided a patrol under 2/Lt Fowlie to bring in a body contained in three sandbags, found in a paddy field by a recce patrol. The MG thinks it is chinese. There were several vehicle accidents on camafage road due to the effect of the continued rain on the steep part of the hill which has to be crossed. Rations water and POL were delayed slightly in some cases because of the of the problem of recovery on the road.

29 Apr 53

The normal patrol action was hampered by a heavy ground mist. Sentries were increased by ten percent. Two small fire fights by neighbouring friends caused a little excitement that was soon settled by arty and mortars. One of our patrols encountered the enemy in small numbers and arty was called. The rain has stopped but the roads are still in poor condition.

30 Apr 53

The RCE had previously constructed a camoflage setup on the road to the forward coys through D Coy. Since its erection it has been a constant struggle to keep it up. Large vehicles and tanks plus three quarter ton CQ vehicles bang the posts in the dark which result in hanging wires and nets for the next vehicle to run into. Patrol action was quiet. The Chinese were quiet.

*Cec MacNeill*  
(C E C MACNEILL) MAJOR  
T/COMMANDING 3 PPCLI

# APPENDICES 1 - 26 27

- 1 ☒ PART I ORDERS  
227 To 279 d/ 25 APR 53.
- 2 ☒ PART II ORDERS  
40 To 47 d/ 30 APR 53.
- 3 ☒ DIV INT SUMMARY (ORIG ONLY)
- 4 ☒ BDE INT SUMMARY
- 5 ☒ BN INT SUMMARY
- 6 ☒ BN PATROL TASK TABLE
- 7 ☒ OPERATIONAL LOG (ORIG ONLY)
- 8 ☒ CO CONFERENCE NOTES
- 9 ☒ MOVEMENT ORDERS
- 10 ☒ OPERATION TURNIP
- 11 ☒ OPERATION NORTHLAND II (ORIG ONLY)
- 12 ☒ OPERATION NEWMARKET (" ")
- 13 ☒ CO's CORRESPONDENCE (" ")
- 14 ☒ KATCOM ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE
- 15 ☒ OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE (ORIG ONLY)
- 16 ☒ TRAINING TIME TABLES (PARTIAL)
- 17 ☒ TRACE FOR D F TASKS
- 18 ☒ NEWS LETTER (MARCH)
- 19 ☒ NCO SCHOOL (ORIG ONLY)
- 20 ☒ PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS (" ")
- 21 ☒ HYGIENE REPORT (ORIG ONLY)
- 22 ☒ SIGS OFFICER REPORT (" ")
- 23 ☒ C COY OPERATIONAL LOG
- 24 ☒ NOMINAL ROLL (OFFICERS) (ORIG ONLY)
- 25 ☒ PHOTOGRAPHS (" ")
- 26 ☒ MAP OF AREA (" ")
- 27 ☒ STRENGTH RETURN (ORIG ONLY)